

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7259

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E.O. 11652: GDS (DECLAS 12-31-81)

1. KIM SANG-MAN, PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER DONG-A ILBO, PLANNING VISIT U.S. OCTOBER 1 TO 24. THIS VISIT, WHICH IS AT HIS OWN EXPENSE, IS FIRST TRIP TO STATES IN FIVE YEARS. ITINERARY, WHICH STILL FLEXIBLE, WILL INCLUDE HONOLULU, LOS ANGELES, WASHINGTON DC, MIAMI, NEW YORK, CHICAGO, SEATTLE, TOKYO.

2. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF VISIT IS TO GET FIRST-HAND LOOK AT MAJOR AMERICAN METROPOLITAN DAILIES WHOSE PRINTING PLANTS AND EDITORIAL OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN SUBURBS. FYI, DONG-A-ILBO HAS BUILT NEW PLANT ON YOIDO, WHICH IS ON OUTSKIRTS OF SEOUL. PRESSES ALREADY INSTALLED AT NEW PLANT ARE PRINTING ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF CURRENT PRESS RUN WITH REMAINDER BEING PRINTED IN SEOUL. PLANS TO MOVE ENTIRE OPERATION TO NEW LOCATION FROM PRESENT DOWNTOWN SEOUL PLANT SOME TIME NEXT YEAR. HE ESSENTIALLY INTERESTED IN METHODS OF COMMUNICATION WITH OUTLYING BUREAUS, COPY TRANSMISSION, ETC. END FYI.

3. DURING CONVERSATION WITH PAO, KIM SAID HE WISHED MEET OBERDORFER AT WASHINGTON POST AND LEONARD SUSSMAN, OF FREEDOM HOUSE BOOKS USA,
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20 WEST 40TH STREET, NY, FROM WHICH HE RECEIVED

AWARD LAST YEAR. HE AWARE OF FACT THAT MANY NEWSPAPER EXECUTIVES AND OTHER AMERICANS WHO HAVE FOLLOWED DONG-A-ILBO THROUGH ITS RECENT DIFFICULTIES MAY WISH TO MEET HIM AND HE WILL BE PLEASED TO DO SO, BUT HE HAS STRESSED HIS DESIRE TO AVOID ANY PUBLICITY WHATSOEVER. HE FEELS THIS MAY DAMAGE HIS RELATIONSHIPS WITH ROKG WHICH STILL SOMEWHAT SHAKY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. CABLE SOONEST NAMES OF LARGE METROPOLITAN DAILIES WITH PLANTS LOCATED IN SUBURBS. WALL STREET JOURNAL IMMEDIATELY COMES TO MIND FOR KIM'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. NEWSDAY MIGHT ALSO BE POSSIBILITY. HE IS WILLING ALTER BASIC ITINERARY SET OUT IN PARA 1 IN ORDER VISIT SUCH PLANTS.

B. KIM WOULD LIKE NAMES OF "OLDER, MORE TRADITIONAL" HOTELS IN MIAMI, SEATTLE, AND CHICAGO AT WHICH HE MIGHT STAY. FOR GUIDANCE, HE IS STAYING AT HAY ADAMS IN WASHINGTON AND PIERRE IN NEW YORK. WELCOME SUGGESTIONS.

C. HE IS INTERESTED IN PURCHASING ROTARY PRESS WITH FOUR-COLOR CAPABILITY. SUGGEST WASHINGTON BE PREPARED SUGGEST NAMES COMPANIES HE MIGHT CONTACT BUT HE HAS ALSO ASKED PAO TO LOOK INTO THIS AS POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION TO BE ASSISTED BY C&I DIVISION OF EMBASSY. WE WILL, THEREFORE, BE PURSUING THIS PROJECT AT THIS END.

5. ALL OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT, WITH EXCEPTION THOSE REQUESTED ABOVE, BEING MADE BY KIM HIMSELF. HE IS AWARE KOREAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON WILL KNOW OF HIS VISIT AND ITINERARY BUT HE WILL NOT MAKE ANY EFFORT CONTACT ANY ROKG OFFICIAL DURING HIS TRIP.
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